

Ask SHIP

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Mary Phillips

Q: My Medicare card is several years old and is getting hard to read. How do I request a replacement card?

A: You can request a replacement red, white, and blue Medicare card online on Social Security's web site or through the MyMedicare.gov website. Your card will be mailed within 30 days to the address the Social Security Administration has on record. Please make sure that your address on the Address Verification page is your current address before requesting a replacement card.

For your protection, you will not be able to order a replacement card if one has been ordered in the last 30 days.

To make an online request, you will need the following information:

Your last (exact) payment amount or the month and year you last received a payment, if you have received benefits in the last 12 months.

Your name as it appears on your most recent Social Security card

Your Social Security Number

Your Date of Birth

Your phone number in case we need to contact you about your request

Your e-mail address (optional)

You may also need your place of birth and/or your mother's maiden name (to help identify you).

If you prefer, or if you are unable to use the online request to obtain a replacement Medicare card, call Social Security's toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213, or 1-800 Medicare (1-800-633-4227). You can also visit a local social security office.

Q: I've been hearing about the new health insurance for people in Indiana – HIP. Is this something I can use to help supplement my Medicare costs?

A: The Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) is a state-sponsored health insurance plan for uninsured low-income Hoosiers. Because you have health insurance, Medicare, you would not be eligible for this plan.

This plan is available to Hoosiers between the ages of 19 – 64, who have income levels

under 200% of the federal poverty level. Participants must be uninsured for at least six months, and may not be eligible for employer-sponsored health insurance.

Enrollment in HIP is limited by funding available. HIP has funding to cover approximately 130,000 individuals a year. Coverage can begin as early as January 1, 2008.

For more information on HIP you can go to their website: HYPERLINK "http://www.HIP.in.gov" www.HIP.in.gov , contact them by email at: HYPERLINK "mailto:hipinfo@fssa.in.gov" hipinfo@fssa.in.gov , or call 1-877-GET-HIP-9 (1-877-438-4479).

Address your questions to:

Ask SHIP
714 West 53rd Street
Anderson, IN 46013

Or HYPERLINK "http://www.Medicare.in.gov" www.Medicare.in.gov
1-800-452-4800

SHIP is a free, unbiased counseling program provided by the Indiana State Department of Insurance. For assistance, call your local SHIP site to make an appointment or call the state office at 1-800-452-4800 to obtain a list of local SHIP sites.